

Remarks

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the above amendments and in light of the following remarks and discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 are currently pending in the application; Claim 12 having been amended, and new dependent Claims 15-20 having been added, by way of the present response.

Applicants respectfully assert that support for the changes to the claims is self-evident from the originally filed disclosure, including the original claims, and that therefore no new matter has been added.

In the outstanding Office Action Claim 12 was objected to; Claims 1, 2, 4, and 12-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Publication No. 11-62549 to Umemura et al. (Umemura) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,411,616 to Neumann; and Claims 1, 2, 4, 12, and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,199,936 to Cowan et al. (Cowan) in view of Neumann.

Initially, Applicants express thanks for the Examiner's indication that Claims 3 and 5 are allowed.

As stated above Claim 12 was objected to because of informalities. In response, Applicants have amended the claim to remedy the informalities noted by the Examiner. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to Claim 12 be withdrawn.

As stated above Claims 1, 2, 4, and 12-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Umemura in view of Neumann. Claims 1, 2, 4, 12, and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cowan in view of Neumann. Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of the claims be withdrawn for the following reasons.

The present invention is directed to gas turbine combustors. Independent Claim 1 recites a casing configured to surround a combustor and to be disposed apart from the

combustor to define an intake chamber between the combustor and the casing. A sheet-like vibration damper having at least one thin plate, which resonates with a vibration of air in the intake chamber to absorb energy of the air vibration, is attached to an inner wall of the casing by an attaching member with a vacant space therebetween. Independent Claim 12 recites a casing surrounding an intake chamber, the casing configured to surround a combustor and to be disposed apart from the combustor and the intake chamber. A damper is connected to an inner wall of the casing and is configured to resonate with a vibration of air in the intake chamber. The damper has a plurality of thicknesses in a direction perpendicular to a direction of air flow through the intake chamber.

Umemura is directed to a combustor. Applicants respectfully assert that Umemura does not teach or suggest, however, the claimed features of a damper resonating with a vibration of air in an intake chamber, as recited in independent Claims 1 and 12. Rather, as discussed in paragraph [0018] of the attached computer English language translation of Umemura obtained from the Japanese Patent Office website, a perforated plate 15 is installed to prevent scattering of acoustic material 14, rather than to resonate with a vibration of air in an intake chamber, for example.

Specifically, independent Claim 1 “a sheet-like vibration damper having at least one thin plate, which resonates with a vibration of air in the intake chamber to absorb energy of the air vibration,” and independent Claim 12 recites “a damper . . . configured to resonate with a vibration of air in the intake chamber.”

The Office Action relies on Neumann in attempt to remedy the deficiencies of Umemura. Applicants respectfully assert that Neumann does not remedy these deficiencies, however, for the following reasons.

Neumann is directed to an apparatus for burning of fuel gases and process for avoidance of combustion chamber oscillations. As shown in Figure 1, for example, of Neumann, oscillatable walls 4 and 7 are installed in a casing 1.

Applicants respectfully assert that Neumann does not teach or suggest, however, the claimed features of a damper resonating with a vibration of air in an intake chamber, as recited in independent Claims 1 and 12. Specifically, Applicants respectfully assert that Neumann, which is not directed to a gas turbine combustor, shows dampening oscillations of walls through the oscillatable walls 4 and 7, rather than showing a damper resonating with a vibration of air in an intake chamber.

Thus, for the above reasons, Applicants respectfully assert that neither Umemura nor Neumann, whether taken alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the claimed features recited in independent Claims 1 and 12. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of independent Claim 1 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Umemura and Neumann be withdrawn.

Cowan is directed to a gas turbine engine combustion noise suppressor. Applicants respectfully assert that Cowan does not teach or suggest, and the Office Action explicitly concedes that Cowan does not teach or suggest, the claimed features of a damper resonating with a vibration of air in an intake chamber.

Although the Office Action relies on Neumann in attempt to remedy the deficiencies of Cowan, Applicants respectfully assert that Neumann does not remedy these deficiencies for the reasons discussed in detail above.

Thus, for the above reasons, Applicants respectfully assert that neither Cowan nor Neumann, whether taken alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the claimed features recited in independent Claims 1 and 12. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the

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rejection of independent Claim 1 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Cowan and Neumann be withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully assert that the outstanding grounds of rejection of independent Claims 1 and 12 have been overcome for the above reasons. Thus, Applicants respectfully request the allowance of independent Claims 1 and 12.

Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 2, 4, 6-11, and 13-20 are allowable for the same reasons as independent Claims 1 and 12 from which they depend, as well as for their own features. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that withdrawn Claims 6-11 be treated on the merits, that the rejections of dependent Claims 2, 4, 13, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn, and the allowance of dependent Claims 2, 4, 6-11, and 13-20.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-20 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

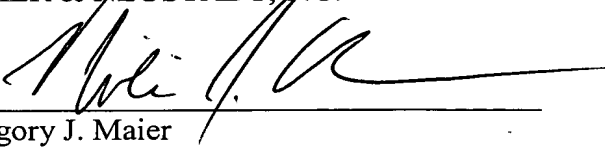
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Respectfully submitted,

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